



St. Thomas Church: established July 1, 1285 by King Vaclav II

Today's Prayer

I pause for a moment and think of the love and the grace that God showers on me: I am created in the image and likeness of God; I am God's dwelling-place.

May 6th and May 7th 2017

The Fourth Sunday of
Easter – Year A

St. Thomas Church

Josefská 8, Malá Strana, Prague 1, 118 01

Tel: 257 530 556, 602 643 365

FOURTH EASTER SUNDAY -A

Strike the shepherd and the sheep will scatter runs an ancient proverb. In order, however, to understand all the nuances of this familiar parable “of the Good Shepherd” we should know something of the pastoral milieu within which Jesus spoke. The first point is obvious: *security of the flock is paramount.* To protect their animals shepherds devised a number of strategies. The more common was that of *corralling* them into a primitive enclosure or stone, briars or rubble (about two feet high) with only one opening across which the vigilant shepherd would restively lie. The sheep or goats thus were safely guarded under the watchful eye of the herdsman ever aware of such dangerous nocturnal predators as lions, bears, wolves and jackals that then ranged in ancient Palestine. At dawn after a suspenseful night, the shepherd would enter the enclosure, whistle or call for his sheep, count heads and set out for pasturage and water. Today specially trained dogs and horses drive the sheep *before* them; ancient shepherds *led* the flock out in search of sustinence. It is precisely this image of the shepherd *leading his flock* that so delighted Jesus and his hearers.

Both the religious leaders of the past and present can take this parable to heart. Excelling in the Law and observances hedged in stringent commands must give way to a ministry of teaching patiently and lovingly healing in the example of the Good Shepherd. The parable tells us that we are to be ready to give our lives for others by vigilance. As we imitate the Good Shepherd those fears and needless anxieties soon fade as we hear his voice above the din of pressures and discordant voices. If we would only allow ourselves to listen!

Fr. Antonio 25 years of Priesthood. May 7th.

This Sunday, May 7th at 11:00am Mass we are celebrating the 25 Priesthood anniversary of Fr. Antonio Rivas, OSA, the pastor of Saint Thomas Church. God bless him and we pray for him and thank God for his service to our community!



Ongoing Activities

Coffee, Cookies & Conversation follow Sunday Mass in the Monastery Refectory off the Cloister Garden. **All are invited, especially our visitors.**

If you would like to receive a **copy of the bulletin** by email, please contact osaprag@augustiniani.cz

Bible Study sessions are held each Wednesday evening at 6:30pm/18:00 in the Church office. All are welcome to join and reflect on the Word of God.

4 leaders needed for an English summer camp from July 9. - 22. More information see Fr. Juan or ask at juan@augustiniani.cz

Marriage Preparation: The next one-day marriage preparation course (for the English speaking community) will be held by Fr. William on Saturday 20th May from 9:15am - 3pm at St. Thomas Parish for those who wish to participate.

St Thomas' English Speaking Community now has a presence on **facebook**. Please 'like' our page and if you want to get more involved with the community, join our group!

The 20th Annual Marian Pilgrimage to the Shrine of the **Gracious Madonna**, at sv. Dobrotiva-Zajecov, will be held on May 27th. We meet in front of St. Joseph's church on Josefská Street, at 08:30 am, Saturday morning. If you do not have a ride please contact Fr. Juan Bautista for details. In keeping with our tradition, please bring a lunch, which you can share with another person on pilgrimage. Whatever is left over (if you so will) is given to the poor. There is a brochure, which explains the origins and traditions behind this beautiful 700-year pilgrimage, which has been renewed after forty years of communism. **SIGN UP:** In the sacristy of St. Thomas Church

Coming soon:

21.5.2017 Confirmation Sunday

*09.6.2017 The Night of the Churches from
18:00 till 00:00*

*The 14th PARISH FESTIVAL
3. June 2017.*

osaprag@augustiniani.cz

Two new Augustinians, from Philippines, serving at St. Thomas Church.

Fr. Isabelo JR. Carloman, OSA



Fr. Imman Noel A. Abellana, OSA



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